

SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PARISH ASSOCIATION

OF THE

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

PHILADELPHIA.

As READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY, THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 23, 1881

PHILADELPHIA:
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1881.

Report.

Philadelphia, January 23d, 1881.

TO THE CONGREGATION
OF THE
CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES.

As usual on this, the Fourth Sunday in January, the Committee of the Parish Association, appointed for the purpose, herewith presents as full a summary of the work of the past year as it is possible to give; and in doing so, we would again remind you of the object of our organization, as stated in a former Report.

“The Association was established in 1874, with a view of enlisting the active co-operation of the members of the Congregation in the work which is laid upon our Church, and to bring at the meetings the operations of the several Committees before the members, to stimulate to renewed effort and to consult as to future measures to the same end.”

In our last Report it was stated that the meetings had been changed from Wednesday evenings to Monday, once a month; this plan, which was found to work well at first, has been abandoned on the ground of there being so many other meetings and services, and an Amendment to the Constitution was adopted by which hereafter they will be held on the last Wednesday evenings of the months of February, May, September and November in each year.

The Rector reports that the services of the Church have been held regularly—twice every Sunday, except during the month of August, and that on the Sundays in Lent there was Evening Prayer, with a short address in the afternoon, and an extra service in the evening; also several additional meetings after the regular evening service, before Confirmation: During the Lenten season, an afternoon service was held in the Church on

Thursdays, at which many who could not attend in the evening were present. There have also been the customary services on Holy Days and Thanksgiving Day, as in previous years. The Wednesday evening lecture is continued, as usual, and was united with the Teachers' Meeting during the entire summer.

The attendance at our services and weekly meetings, while it is exceedingly gratifying, and pronounced by those of other parishes who have been with us, as comparing very favorably with their own, yet the Rector, to quote from our last Report, "is compelled to deplore the absence of many who should enter the courts of the Lord, there are those who have been baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church, whose children are enrolled in the Sunday School, who consider themselves as connected with the Parish, receiving the visits of the Minister, and his consolation and assistance at the time of trouble, who yet are never seen in the Sanctuary, it is his earnest wish that all who are regular in their attendance, and the members of the Association should co-operate with him, in inducing such persons to come to Church.

During the Advent season, a series of special sermons were preached on the Sunday evenings by Bishop Stevens, Bishop Jaggar and Rev. Messrs. McVickar and Bugbee. Bishop Vail, of Kansas, was present on the evening of the Sunday before Advent, and delivered an address on his work in that large and increasing State.

There have been during 1880:

Infant Baptisms,	53
Adult "	3
Confirmed Males,	3
" Females,	12
	— 15
Funerals Attended,	27
Marriages Solemnized,	8
Present Number of Communicants, about,	*450
Amount of Communion Offerteries,	\$113.53

The Holy Communion is administered every Second Sunday in the month, and Infant Baptism on the Fourth Sunday.

Since this Parish has been in existence, the summary of the statistics is as follows:

Baptisms, Infants, 647. Adults, 48,	695
Confirmed, twelve occasions,	387
Funerals,	347
Marriages,	131

* It is impossible to furnish an absolute list of the Communicants.

The Accounting Warden presents the following Statements of his Accounts, which are herewith submitted.

DR. BY ACCOUNT. 1880.

January 1, Balance on hand,	\$ 121.53
Received from Pew Rents,	2,139.64
" Collections,	509.84
" Subscriptions,	375.00
" Sunday Schools,	485.36
" Contributions for Organ, etc.,	850.00
" Concert,	67.25
" Strawberry Festival,	260.00
" Entertainment and Tea Party,	135.00
" Excursion,	20.51
" Special Subscriptions,	142.00
Sundry Items,	98.49
	<hr/> \$5,204.62

CR. BY PAYMENTS.

Rector,	\$2,000.00
Sexton, and Small Bills,	412.85
Ground Rent,	600.00
New Organ, Alterations to Choir Gallery, Music Books, Blower, Organ Tuning, etc.,	888.15
Iron Railing,	339.00
Alterations and Repairs,	122.88
Gas,	264.05
Coal,	272.10
Summer Supply to Church,	70.00
Episcopal Hospital,	39.02
Indian Missions,	24.19
Insurance,	60.00
Dressing the Church, towards Christmas,	11.00
Sundries,	82.60
	<hr/> \$5,185.84
Balance, January 1, 1881,	\$18.78

Comparing this Report with that of last year, several small items of difference will be noted:

FIRST. The increase in total amount of money received and disbursed; this has been occasioned, in great part, by the sum which was contributed by friends of the Rector for the purchase of the new organ, and the extra amount furnished by three members of the Congregation towards the improving and refurnishing of the Choir Gallery; also by the successful effort on the part of the Congregation and Sunday Schools in providing the funds for the placing of an Iron Railing around the front and side of the

Church building, tending to the better security and protection of the property.

SECOND. That the revenue from pew rents is some \$200 greater, and that from the Sunday collections, has fallen off to a larger amount.

THIRD. The item "Gas and Fuel" shows an increase of some \$178; this is, in part, owing to the larger number of occasions when the rooms have been opened of an evening, and also that a supply of coal for the entire year was laid in at the low rates of the spring.

The Warden again asks the most careful and earnest attention of the Congregation to the following facts, some of which were stated before.

FIRST. The small number of pews rented.

SECOND. The moderate rental at which they are placed; a whole pew can be had for \$4 a year, and one in the middle of the Church for from \$20 to \$30.

THIRD. That the Sunday Schools are supported entirely by the teachers and their friends, and have not only not asked the Congregation for anything, but have contributed \$485.36 to the support of the Church.

In view of these, and the important fact, besides, that the revenue of the Parish is not sufficient to meet the current expenses, he again asks that all who can will speedily secure a pew or sitting; this not only would make every family feel there was a place for them in the Church and at the services, but would aid materially in solving the question of supporting our work here.

The Warden believes that the members of the Congregation will do their part, when the subject is personally and properly brought before them. Towards the close of 1880, it was found that our balance for the year would be on the wrong side, unless some effort was made to prevent it. Accordingly, the Vestry sent to each pew-holder, and every known member of the Congregation, an appeal to contribute such sum as they could afford, and enclosing a blank for the filling in of a name and subscription.

Including the members of the Vestry, this was, up to the 1st of January, when the yearly accounts are made up, \$392; and since that time, about \$160 additional has been received; this amount has been contributed by 64 different persons.

In this connection he would present the following:—

Amount necessary to meet the expenses of this Church for the year 1881:

Rector's and Sexton's Salaries, and Ground Rent,	\$2,900
Coal, Gas and Small Bills,	400
Convention Fund, two years,	100
Insurance,	75
Music, say,	250
Repairs, Improvements and Sundries,	200
Say,	\$3,925
Or more probably nearer,	4,000
Available Pew-Rents,	\$2,200
Sunday Collections, say,	500
	<hr/> \$2,700
Deficit,	\$1,300

How this is to be met is the question, and one which recurs every year; the Sunday School will cheerfully, as in the past, bear part of this burden, but the Congregation will have to be called upon to take an equal share; a strong, united effort on the part of all would settle this question, and prevent the necessity for such mortifying statements in the future.

The Warden would call attention to the reduction of the yearly ground rent from \$600 to \$500; he would also return the sincere thanks of the Vestry to those persons who have so generously and nobly responded to the appeal which was made to settle up the accounts of 1880.

The usual Fruit and Floral Festival was held on June last, and netted nearly \$300.

The various Committees of the Association report as follows: First—Sunday Schools and Bible Classes.

Number on the Rolls, Officers and Teachers,	69
Scholars,	887
	<hr/> 956

The average attendance during the entire year has been:

Teachers,	59
Scholars,	650
	<hr/> 709

The largest attendance was Easter Sunday, March 28, 904

The smallest attendance was Sunday, August 8, 439

The average above noted shows a falling off from last year of 37; this may be accounted for from the excessive number of rainy and stormy Sundays, fifteen of such, or more than one-

fourth of the whole number, having occurred during the twelve months. The total number on the roll is also less, which is occasioned by removing the names of all scholars who may be termed chronic absentees, and carefully revising the rolls.

The school is at present in excellent working order, the teachers very faithful in their attendance, and great interest taken in the lessons. The average attendance of teachers for the year is the best evidence of this; as will be observed, it was 59 out of 69, or nearly 90 per cent. Exclusive of July and August, it was nearly 95 per cent.

Since our last Report, the International Series of Sunday-School Lessons were reluctantly abandoned, after a full consultation and the unanimous vote of the teachers at a meeting where every one was present, and the whole school is now engaged in the study of the Uniform Scheme of Lessons adapted to the church year by the Diocesan Committees appointed by a number of the Bishops. This scheme is in use in every diocese and missionary jurisdiction, and in nearly twenty-five hundred Sunday-schools. The present series, embracing the season from Advent to Trinity, is upon "The Words of the Lord Jesus," and the leaflets used are those published by the "Standard of the Cross," one of the very best of our church papers. Copies of the journal itself are placed before our teachers on every Sunday, not only giving them most excellent notes on the lesson, but furnishing the best information with reference to church work in this country and England, with editorial matter suited to the Church and the times. The International Lessons were abandoned not from any want of sympathy with Christian work elsewhere, but because it was believed that our scholars would grow up to be more intelligent members of the Protestant Episcopal Church by the adoption of a series in accordance with the church year and its teaching, so that, both in the service and the lesson for the day, there might be acting upon all the same thoughts and scenes.

It is, perhaps, well to add that the Sunday-School Association of this city has endorsed the scheme, and prepares a course of Bible Readings for every day, in harmony with the lesson for each Sunday. Arranged as suitable for the days of the preceding weeks, these Readings are distributed gratuitously, and our own school has gladly availed of them, and is under obligations to the Association.

The influence of the school, which has ever been a strong one in this diocese, has undoubtedly been increased by the course taken upon the lessons.

In our last Report mention was made of a competitive examination on the lessons. During the past six months the scholars were notified that prizes would be distributed for punctual attendance and recitation of lessons, divided into three grades, and this afternoon 99 of the scholars received the gifts provided. Of these, 58 were entitled to the first prize, 15 to the second, and 26 to the third. 25 Bibles, 20 Prayer-Books and Hymnals in case, 10 Prayer-Books and 44 other books were given. During the present six months the same method will prevail, but the successful ones will be entered on a roll instead of receiving prizes.

Many of the Sunday lesson reviews have been increased in interest by the beautiful diagrams prepared by a member of the Men's Bible Class.

The weekly teachers' meetings are continued, and during the summer were combined with the Wednesday evening service. They are held on Friday evenings, and the members of the congregation are always welcome. The attendance has averaged as follows: Teachers, 41; other persons, 14; total, 55. This meeting has been found very useful, as in former years, in preparing older scholars for the work of teaching.

The Christmas services of the schools were postponed from Sunday, December 26th, to the evening of January 2d, by reason of the terrible storm prevailing upon the former. The carols were very effectively rendered, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Atkins and the Rector. The usual Christmas entertainment was given on Tuesday afternoon and evening, December 28th, and all were greatly delighted.

A special feature of this year's holiday season was the bringing of a large number of useful articles, including provisions, groceries, poultry, etc., on the day before Christmas, by the scholars, in response to the Superintendent's appeal of the Sunday previous. One hundred and ten different articles and packages, some of the latter very large, were brought, and fourteen families were made glad by the receipt of them.

The Easter anniversary was held, as usual, on the evening of that day, when the design—a beautiful golden temple, emblematic of the heaven to which our Saviour's finished work will bring us—was greatly admired, and awakened much interest.

On the 20th of June, a special service, in connection with the schools of All Saints' and Mediator parishes, was held, in commemoration of the establishment of Sunday-schools by Robert Raikes; and on July 4th there was a patriotic service by our own schools.

During the fall several missionary gatherings were held to hear addresses from Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, and Bishop Penick, of Africa, and the Rev. Mr. Gilfillan, of White Earth, Minnesota, all of whom have been helped by our scholars. Great interest was manifested by all at the burning words heard on these occasions.

The Library was most carefully overhauled by a Special Committee, new volumes purchased, and re-opened in September; the number of books on the shelves is 664.

The Treasurer of the School reports:

Balance on hand from 1879, including \$200 handed Warden, January 5, 1880,	\$ 274.48
Total Amount Contributed and Collected by Teachers and Scholars in 1880,	1,324.47
	\$1,598.95

EXPENDED.

Support of the Church,	\$ 400.00
Collected for Iron Railing,	85.36
Library, for thoroughly refurnishing and refitting same,	195.60
Missionary purposes:	
Bishop Whipple,	50.00
" Penick,	50.00
Mexican Work,	50.00
Philadelphia City Missions,	25.00
Sick Diet Kitchen,	10.00
First Day Society,	15.00
Sufferers by Milton Fire,	25.00
Church of the Holy Apostles, White Earth Reservation Minnesota,	50.00
Episcopal Hospital,	27.00
Various Mission'y and Charitable Objects,	100.00
Printing, Lesson Papers, etc., Standard of the Cross for Teachers,	160.00
Christmas Festival and Easter Anniversary,	137.63
Sundries,	29.32
	<hr/> \$1,409.91
Balance,	\$189.04

The Schools united again with other Schools in the Special Lenten Missionary Offering, and with the Congregation on the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day, in contributing to the Episcopal Hospital.

Second Committee.—Parish Library.

The Chairman states that the number of books is 900, but during the past year has been very little used. One of the cases

has been removed to the larger Bible Class Room, where its contents are availed of by the young men who are present at the Tuesday evening social gatherings.

A number of religious papers are on file, including The Episcopal Register, Standard of the Cross, and Churchman.

Third Committee.—Church Hospitality.

They can give no statistical report of their work, their duty being to extend a hearty welcome to strangers, of whom many are present at every service.

The members attend before and after the stated services both on Sunday and during the week, and have been the means of making many feel at home, who might otherwise have experienced the loss of such friendly greeting as was thus given them.

They have been the means of introducing quite a number of persons to the Rector, also bringing others into the Sunday Schools.

Fourth Committee.—On District Visiting.

The members of this Committee have paid about 200 visits, and have also visited and relieved a number of cases of distress, and received a number of donations of garments, etc.; they have been instrumental in bringing into the Sunday School and Church those who had no other religious connection, and others recently coming into the neighborhood.

This Committee again expresses its appreciation of the Ward Association for the Relief of the Poor with which it has co-operated, and received valuable advice and assistance in preventing many cases of imposture from obtaining relief, and judiciously dispensing assistance to the needy, they believe that if these Ward Relief Organizations were properly understood by the Churches they would be found to be valuable auxiliaries in their work among the destitute and neglected.

Fifth Committee.—Mothers' Meetings.

These were commenced November 7th, 1879, and continued till April 23d, 1880.

Number held,	24
Garments sold,	169
Balance from last year,	\$11.09
Received,	60.05
	<hr/> \$71.14
Expended,	59.98
Balance in hand,	\$11.16

These meetings have not yet been resumed the present year.

Sixth Committee.—On Missionary Work, have acted in connection with that of District Visiting.

Seventh Committee.—On Music.

They report that the Choir is composed of about 30 persons, and that the average number present at the services during the year has been 18. The re-arrangement of the choir gallery, with proper receptacles for the books, with music stands, and the larger organ, has greatly increased the interest, and we hope improved the character of the singing, the present instrument being much better calculated to support the choristers than the former one. During the present winter, a class of instruction in Vocal Music was formed, and is now in successful operation, under the direction of George F. Bishop; it meets on Monday evenings, and numbers 63 ladies and gentlemen. A small sum is charged, which provides entirely for the expenses incurred, and it is confidently believed will aid the efficiency of the Choir.

Eighth Committee.—Young Men's Association.

Mention was made in our last Report of the reorganization of this work, and we are now able to state that it has been attended with very gratifying results. The object is to afford instructive amusement and recreation to the young men and older boys of our Church and Sunday School. To this end the lower rooms of the parish building are open every Tuesday evening from 7 to 10 o'clock, tickets being distributed to those of certain age. The number in attendance is very gratifying, the average having been more than 40. A portion of the committee are present each evening, and the time is employed in reading and games, with occasional reading of selected and humorous pieces by some one designated. The meetings were continued till the last of May, and resumed the middle of November.

Ninth Committee.—Young Ladies' Sewing Circle.

This work, which was briefly alluded to in a foot-note to the Report of 1879, has become one of the most interesting in our parish history. Eighteen sessions were held, with an average present of 10 teachers and 27 scholars.

The objects of this effort may be briefly stated: To interest the older girls of our school in making garments which may be distributed to needy children in the Sunday School, and to teach writing to those who may desire to improve themselves in this way, and to promote a kindly social feeling. The lecture-room is used for this purpose, and the doors between it and the Bible-

Class room are kept open, so that the Young Men's reading-room and Young Ladies' Sewing Circle are virtually thrown together. Through the kindness of some friends, a piano has been furnished, and as many of our scholars are learning to play upon that instrument, there is music furnished every evening. Your Committee would gladly welcome any from the congregation who feel an interest in looking at this work. They will be well repaid for stopping in some Tuesday evening and looking at the cheerful rooms and the bright, happy faces of the scholars.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

4 pieces unbleached muslin.	1 piece red flannel.
2 pieces gingham.	10 yards muslin.
Needles, cotton, etc., etc., and writing materials.	
Garments made, about 150.	
" distributed, about 100.	

The necessary funds have also been provided without expense to the Association.

Several special committees have performed duties determined upon by the Association. These committees are:

That on Concert, Literary Entertainment, and Tea Party.

" " Fruit and Floral Festival.

" " Excursion to Atlantic City.

" " Dressing the Church at Christmas.

These have faithfully attended to the work assigned them.

In addition, committees of male members of the congregation have assisted in preserving order, and seating those in attendance at the Christmas and Easter celebrations.

The Treasurer of the Association reports:

Balance on hand from 1879,	\$36.67
Collections and Subscriptions,	29.42
Vocal and Literary Entertainment,	113.50
Musical Entertainment and Supper,	158.00
Fruit and Floral Festival,	260.00
	<hr/>
	\$597.59
Paid Fixing Garden Plants,	\$22.42
" Young Men's Association,	3.80
" Accounting Warden, for Church Expenses,	395.00
" Treasurer of Sunday School, for Library Fund,	135.00
" Sundry Bills,	4.90
	<hr/>
	561.12
Balance	<hr/>
	\$36.47

Grouping together, then, the various Treasurers' reports, and we find the total amount received from all sources, including—

Pew Rents, Subscriptions, Donations, Entertainments,
Offeritory, etc., was \$6,570.47

and the expenditures were:

Support of the Church, including Interest on	
Ground Rent, Insurance, etc.,	\$3,803.72
Repairs, etc.,	122.88
Improvements, mainly Iron Railing and altering	
Choir Gallery,	527.15
New Organ,	700.00
Support of Sunday Schools and refurnishing	
Library,	324.92
Printing and Expenses Christmas Festival and	
Easter Anniversary,	197.63
Missionary Purposes,	638.72
	<hr/> 6,315.02
Balance,	\$255.45

Represented by balances:

Church Warden,	\$18.78
Treasurer Sunday School,	189.04
" Parish Association,	36.47
" Mother's Meeting,	11.16
	<hr/> \$255.45

We have thus briefly presented to you the statistics of another year's work. It has been a year free from excitement, but with our services fully maintained; and although a smaller number were found to consecrate themselves to Christ in the rite of Confirmation, still it is hoped that the equally important, and too often overlooked duty of building up those who have professed the Christian faith in its most holy precepts, has been pressed as never before.

We complete this evening the thirteenth year of the history of the parish. During the period passed over since its organization there have been many changes in the outside world, in the city and neighborhood, in the diocese, and in the Church at large. To us, here, the scene has not shifted so much. We have had but one Rector, one Superintendent of the Sunday School, one Sexton; the Wardens are the same as when the Vestry was first organized, and six of the teachers who taught at the first regular session of the school are at their posts to-day. The Infant Department has had for over twelve years the same head, and

the Men's Bible Class retains the teacher who began its sessions. Several classes have retained and hold at the present time scholars who have grown to years of discretion, and still remain with the teachers who first took their charge. Scholars who came into the Sunday School as little children are now faithful teachers; and of the thirty-two who came to inaugurate the Sunday School on the 26th day of January, 1868, several yet remain on the roll. These facts are remarkable, and speak volumes. During all this time we have lived at peace both at home and abroad; no unseemly strife has ever invaded our Zion; all here have seemed to realize the truth of the well-known lines, and to say, slightly altering them:

"We love Thy Kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode;
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His most precious blood."

May this dear Church continue to be in the future as in the past—a bulwark of truth—and may all of us, when done with this life, be partakers of Christ's heavenly Kingdom.

Grant, Lord, that we who worship here,
May all at last in heaven appear.

Brethren, let us "provoke one another to love and good works," "be kindly affectioned one toward another with brotherly love," "not slothful in business, fervent in spirit serving the Lord," and "hold fast the profession of our Faith, without wavering; for He is faithful that promised."

Your friends and fellow-workers,

CHARLES D. COOPER, Rector,
GEO. C. THOMAS,
R. A. KYLE,
WM. D. THOMAS.

Committee.